



SAGE Observations

SAGE operates under the aegis of the Tseng College at California State University, Northridge

Study ♦

Activity ♦

Growth ♦

Enrichment

Winter 2018



Larry Caretto

MEMO FROM THE PRESIDENT

All members should have received the Nominating Committee report that was approved by the SAGE Board of Directors at its February meeting. The committee nominated Jerry Rishe as vice president/president-elect, Jan Bender as secretary, and Phyllis Thompson as treasurer.

Judy Davidson, the current vice president, will become president at the start of the term for new officers, July 1. The report sent to you also describes the process for alternate nominations. Thanks to the Nominating Committee members June Adler (chair), Ed Gershon, and Judy Fisher.

Other board members are appointed by the incoming president, with approval by the board. These positions, also confirmed at the last board meeting, include John Clerx, curriculum chair; Carolyn Schiers, forum chair; Diane Lynch, membership chair; and Pam Nagami, coordinators chair. Reuben Allen will continue as webmaster and Joyce Linden will continue as CSUN liaison. Ed and Marcy Goldstein will be responsible for the editing and production of *SAGE Observations*.

As you read this message during the last week of the Winter term you should soon learn (or may have already learned) about your Spring classes. I know that the Curriculum Committee has been busy not only with the usual process of selecting classes for each term, but in trying to improve their processes for getting course proposals and selecting courses. The committee noted that a few members submit many course proposals while most members have not submitted any. To encourage members to submit proposals, the committee has created an email submission process that does not require the use of any forms. I have heard some members' concerns about seeing two classes that they would like to take that are offered at the same time. I know that much of the schedule is driven by the schedules of the individuals who will be coordinating the courses. I have asked the Curriculum Committee and the Coordinators Committee to do whatever they can to avoid scheduling two classes at the same time that many of the same members might like to take.

I hope to see all of you at the SAGE Spring Forum on April 27. Forum Chair Myra Cohen is sure to have an excellent event for us.

SAGE SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Education is the gift that keeps on giving, both to the recipient as well as to society as a whole, and a scholarship is a gift that most of us can feel good about, whether we are the contributor or the honoree.

The SAGE Society established the SAGE Scholarship Fund in 2011, entirely from voluntary contributions by SAGE members. Its purpose is to sponsor scholarships for CSUN students. When the fund reaches at least \$1000, a scholarship is awarded to a CSUN student. (Please note that this is different than the SAGE Gerontology Scholarship awarded annually from the SAGE treasury.)

The SAGE Scholarship Fund welcomes all contributions including memorial and honorary donations for and from not only SAGE members, but also from individuals who are not SAGE members. What this means is that SAGE members are encouraged to keep the SAGE Scholarship Fund in mind for gifts of all kinds, whether in memoriam, for birthdays or anniversaries, or for no special reason. We accept contributions on an ongoing basis.

All contributors are sent a "thank you" letter. When a gift is made to honor a living honoree, the honoree will be sent an acknowledgement that a gift has been made in his/her honor. When a memorial gift is made, surviving family members are sent an acknowledgement that a donation has been made in memory of their loved one, as long as we are provided with the name and address of the individual who should receive the acknowledgement. *All donations are tax deductible.*

Since its inception in 2011, the SAGE Scholarship Fund has awarded \$13,500 in scholarships, distributed among a total of seven students. At the upcoming 2018 Spring Forum we will award two more: the Len Rottman Scholarship and the Bette Simons Scholarship, for a total of \$3000.

We hope that you will keep the SAGE Scholarship Fund in mind when you have occasion to give gifts or honors in memoriam—and please tell your friends and family about these opportunities. Checks for the fund should be made payable to "The CSUN Foundation" and mailed to Wilma Helms, 7712 Calvin Ave., Reseda, CA 91335. Any questions about the SAGE Scholarship Fund should be directed to Wilma Helms.

Wilma Helms

DOWNSIZE? WHEN?

SAGE hosted a seminar that I arranged on November 17, titled “When to Downsize Our Homes?”

Two retired faculty members from California State University, Northridge presented helpful insight and strategies to guide us in planning such a move if and when it might become necessary. Heidemarie Lundblad, PhD, was in the College of Business and Economics, and currently is a volunteer with the Senior Ombudsman Program of Ventura County; Margaret Vernallis was a clinical psychologist with CSUN Counseling Services.

Lundblad (Heidemarie.lundblad@csun.edu) provided an overview of the hierarchy of residential options from staying in your home with assistance, moving to a smaller home or apartment, and going into assisted living, board and care or a skilled nursing home. She explained the costs, the advantages and disadvantages of each setting, and the role of Medicare. She also identified resources such as the L.A. County Area Agency on Aging (www.aging.CA.gov/programs) and Adult Protective Services.

Vernallis (Margaret.vernallis@csun.edu) spoke of her experience helping university students make decisions; and reminded us that we should have confidence in our own decision-making abilities, and to use the same tools we used when we were young. She pointed out that we are comforted when we are surrounded by our own things; and she asked what we would take with us if we had to evacuate, which helped us to realize just what is important in our lives.

Handouts were available that included presenters’ email addresses, a list of topics to discuss with one’s family, a humorous list of the ailments faced by older folks, and a book title (donated to SAGE by member Merry Ovnick and available by contacting Joyce Linden): M. Codina, *Liquidating an Estate: How to Sell a Lifetime of Stuff, Make Some Cash, and Live to Tell About It*. Krause Publications, Iola, Wis. (2013).

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When YOU say YES

Let’s think about commitment! You might think this message does not apply to you, but just read it anyway.

Do you understand the SAGE class selection process? Someone submits a topic suggestion, and then the Curriculum Committee votes on whether to include it as a class amongst the 14 offered each regular quarter.

Next, the coordinator chair needs to find a person who will coordinate the class.

Seems simple, because all you now need to do is sign up and hope you get into your chosen class.

Let’s skip ahead. The class coordinator contacts you, and asks that you **commit** to a topic and a date. That’s right, **commit**. You COMMIT to present for a discussion. You COMMIT to a topic, and a date. You COMMIT to a handout for the class members.

And the coordinator has included you in the calendar. He or she and your classmates **expect** you to keep your commitment.

Options: If you become ill or called out of town, it is **your responsibility** to contact a classmate to **trade places** with you.

The class is depending upon you.

You made a **COMMITMENT**.

Judy Davidson

SAGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Larry Caretto

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Secretary: Laura Gold

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COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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CSUN Liaison: Joyce Linden

Membership: Phyllis Hall

SAGE Observations

Editor: Barbara Caretto



Board of Directors meets the second Monday of the month

SAGE Office Secretary:
Roberta Berson



ONLINE CONNECTIONS

Web Home Page:

<http://www.sagesocietycsun.org>

Email: elders@csun.edu

SAGE Yelp Reviews:

<https://www.yelp.com/biz/the-sage-society-granada-hills>

Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/SAGE-Society/504341076302357>

Carol Hernandez Film Club Reviews

SAGE's film club meets on the third Monday of every month at 9:30 AM at our usual SAGE meeting place. As always, all SAGE members and their guests are welcome even if they haven't yet seen the selected films. You're welcome to join in the discussion and help select the next month's picks. Our March films will be *Early Man*, *Black Panther*, and *Pad Man*.

Film club members discussed the following films during their January and February meetings, and rated them on a 10-point scale.

A unique and moving film enjoyed by all, *The Shape of Water* appears to be a horror flick from the hype but it is in reality a very creative, beautifully done love story. Members praised the director, Guillermo de Toro, for the nuanced symbols, period settings and political environment of the '50s-'60s, the brilliant, clever script and the visual nature of the film. Four members gave it a score of 10 out of 10 and four gave it a 9, averaging **9.5**

The Post is another beautifully done film, portraying the changing self-perception of a woman with "invisible" power. Spielberg's authenticity focuses on the shocking story that has allowed our country to have a "free press." The behind-the-scene filming of the newspaper printing process was real, attested to by SAGE member Phyllis Hall, who may be the only woman who ever worked on the "bank," which refers to the actual printing of the paper. As usual, Streep gave an excellent performance in appropriate period costumes. A few members complained about the sound quality in the theatres they attended, lowering the mostly high scores to an average of **8.6**.
Joyce R. Linden

Phantom Thread is a twisty, wonderfully acted film that portrays the shifting balance of power in the peculiar relationship between a prominent fashion designer and the beautiful waitress he lures into his design business and his life. The woman he expects to dominate and control soon turns the tables on his plan for the relationship. As a result, his life and career are totally disrupted. The designer's sister, who runs the business side of his fashion empire, gives us insight into the practical side of a very competitive business as well as representing a clear-eyed observer of the relationship that is transforming her brother. The process of creating fashion for royalty and the ultra-wealthy is fascinating. One can also see hints of the current "Me Too" movement in the rocky and rather disquieting road to gender parity in the relationship between the two main characters. Slow moving at times, but often wry, the film is stunning to watch, and the background music is lovely as well. Rating: **8.5**

Molly's Game is based on the true story of Molly Bloom, an Olympic-class skier who ran the world's most exclusive high-stakes poker game for a decade before being arrested in the middle of the night by 17 FBI agents wielding automatic weapons. At the beginning Molly works as the assistant bookkeeper of a brutal boss who runs an underground poker game. After a falling out, Molly strikes out on her own to create a whole new animal—an elegant, discreet, floating high-stakes game that draws in prominent politicians, Hollywood royalty, sports stars, business titans, and other famous folks. She is eventually caught, but the trial and final sentencing present an intriguing commentary on honesty, dignity, justice, victimization, and being true to oneself. Rating: **8.7**
Marcy G. Goldstein


SAVE THESE DATES!!!!

DON'T MISS THE BUS TRIP for SAGE members and friends to the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana on **Thursday, March 29**, departing from SAGE at 9:00 a.m. See The Burton Fink Scrimshaw Collection, have lunch at the Tangata Restaurant, and enjoy a docent-guided tour called "Best of the Bowers." See notice on bulletin boards or February 22 SAGE global email for reservations and other details.

SHARE AN EXCITING JOURNEY INTO SPACE with **BERNARD ("BUDDY") BREGMAN**, guest speaker at the **SPRING SAGE FORUM LUNCHEON**, at the Odyssey Restaurant on **Friday, April 27, 2018**. Following his successful 50-year career in designing, building, testing, launching, and operating space hardware projects—including Skylab, the Mars Viking Lander, and the Space Shuttle—Bregman (B.S.E.E., M.S. System Sciences) joined the volunteer team at the California Space Center in Exposition Park (home of the Shuttle Endeavor), dedicated to inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers. A Q&A will follow his 11:00 a.m. presentation. **Watch your email and bulletin boards** for details about the forum, which also includes SAGE scholarship presentations and election of officers.

16651 Rinaldi Street, Granada Hills 818-831-3014

SPRING CLASSES 2018 START: APRIL 2 END: JUNE 7

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9:30-11:30 AM	Hernandez Film Club: 3rd Mondays	HOT TOPICS	TED TALKS	SPORTS AND POLITICS	Special events
9:30-11:30 AM		AMERICAN GROWTH AND DECLINE: 1870 TO THE PRESENT	WOMEN WITH THE RIGHT STUFF: THOSE WHO MADE THE DIFFERENCE IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	"VITAL" COMMODITIES THAT SHAPED THE WORLD	
1:15-3:15 PM	ROCK 'N' ROLL HALL OF FAME	FOUR CHEKHOV PLAYS	THOMAS MANN'S <i>MAGIC MOUNTAIN</i>	THE BRITISH MONARCHY 1485 TO PRESENT	
1:15-3:15 PM	SAPIENS: A BRIEF HISTORY OF HUMANKIND	SCANDALOUS PEOPLE AND EVENTS	AWARD WINNING BROADWAY DRAMAS AND PLAYWRIGHTS	THE "ISMS": UNDERSTANDING AND MIS-UNDERSTANDING POLITICAL MOVEMENTS	

SAGE WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Membership Chair Phyllis Hall, reported that these 16 individuals signed on as trial members for the winter term. We veterans look forward to meeting you in classes and at SAGE events.

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|---------------|------------------|
| Brad Barton | Dalia Jones |
| Ray Cesmat | Roberta Kessler |
| Frank Diaz | Yosef Khen |
| Maria Glasgow | Sylvia Martin |
| Sheila Harris | Rebecca Pang |
| Tirza Haviv | Cassy Stein |
| Debra Hetrick | Nick Stein |
| Ben Hoskins | Nancy Studhalter |

Downsize? When? (continued from page 2)

Lundblad provided copies of a senior resource magazine from Ventura County, saying that a similar periodical is available in L.A. County.

Questions and discussion followed the presentation, with SAGE members sharing stories of friends who had moved and realized that they did not miss their homes at all. Some asked about reverse mortgages and shared comments. The audience was warned to beware of scams. Another member shared the name of a discounted Uber-type transportation service: gogograndparent.com (855) 464-6872.

Most of the 30 SAGE members and friends who attended the seminar found it very informative and useful, the presenters impressive, and all appreciated the opportunity to talk about a subject that is often avoided.

Joyce R. Linden

A special tribute from member Cal Torrance

Most SAGE members who are over 90 years of age choose emeritus status and don't do presentations. But there is one member who (a) still does presentations, (b) travels the farthest distance of any member (from Newport Beach) to attend, and (c) is the oldest member we have (he is 99). His name is Irv Sherman and his presentations are excellent!